

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 00918 271158Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /079 W

-----271201Z 065991 /12

P R 271034Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8870

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDISABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, NI

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH GARBA ON RHODESIA

1. AFTER DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS BEING REPORTED SEPTELS,
I HAD OCCASION JANUARY 26 RAISE WITH GARBA CURRENT FMG VIEW OF
RHODESIAN PROBLEM. HE SAID FMG WAS DISMAYED AT PRESENT TURN OF EVENTS
AND DEEPLY FEARED DETERIORATION WITHIN ZIMBABWE ALONG ANGOLAN
LINES. GARBA SIAD OBASANJO HAD QUESTIONED NKOMO HARD DURING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 00918 271158Z

NKOMO'S RECENT VISIT, PRESSING HIM FOR ASSURANCES THAT HE
AND HIS ZAPU COLLEAGUES FULLY SUPPORTED THE ARMED STRUGGLE.
GARBA SAID FMG FOUND NKOMO "UNLIKELY" FUTURE HEAD OF STATE IN
VIEW OF HIS PREVIOUSLY "NON-MILITANT APPROACH". FMG WAS
DUBIOUS OF CREDIBILITY OF NKOMO'S ALLIANCE WITH MUGABE.

2. I NOTED THAT FMG TO DATE HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED THE

FRONTLINE ESPOUSAL OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. GARBA SAID FMG HAD NO PROBLEM WITH FRONTLINE ESPOUSAL OF PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF). HE SAID "IN FACT WE SUGGESTED IT TO THEM." HE SAID THIS ACTION WAS "ALL RIGHT FOR THE FRONTLINE STATES" BUT REPLIED THAT NIGERIA WANTED TO KEEP OTHER OPTIONS OPEN FOR HERSELF AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. HE SAID THIS WAS WHY NIGERIA PREFERRED TO GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT DIRECTLY TO LIBERATION LEADERS RATHER THAN THROUGH THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS. NIGERIA WOULD SOON RECEIVE SITHOLE AND TALK THINGS OVER WITH HIM "TOO SEE WHERE HE STANDS."

3. GARBA THEN SAID "THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO DEMANDUS HELP." I SAID WE WOULD WELCOME A MORE PRECISE INDICATION OF THE KIND OF ACTION HE THOUGHT THE US MIGHT TAKE. HE SAID THAT HIS "EXPERTS" WERE WORKING ON A LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE SETTING FORTH SUCH IDEAS. I ASKAD WHETHER NAMIBIA WAS INCLUDED. HE SAID YES. HE HOPED THE LETTER WOULD BE FINISHED BY THIS WEEKEND.

4. COMMENT: IN FIRST TELLING ME THAT FMG HAD SUGGESTED FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS' ESPOUSAL OF PF AND THEN STRESSING FMG'S INTENTION OF KEEPING ITS OWN OPTIONS OPEN, GARBA WAS REFLECTING THE DEEP-SEATED AND CONTINUING NIGERIAN FEAR OF BACKING A LOSER IN RHODESIA. HIS EXPRESSION OF DOUBT ABOUT NKOMO'S POTENTIAL AS A LEADER AND THE PERMANENCE OF THE NKOMO/MUGABE ALLIANCE CONFIRM THIS. IT MAY BE THAT WHAT FMG IN FACT DID WAS TO URGE FRONTLINE STATES TO SELECT THE LEADER WHO THEY THOUGHT COULD COMMAND THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE VARIOUS RHODESIAN NATIONLIST FACTIONS AND AROUND WHOM OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS COULD EVENTUALLY RALLY. OBVIOUSLY, NKOMO HAS NOT YET CONVINCED THE NIGERIANS THAT HE IS THAT LEADER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 00918 271158Z

EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS00918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770029-0776
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770113/aaaaalgt.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 44c738d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3487444
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH GARBA ON RHODESIA
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, NI, (GARBA, JOSEPH N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/44c738d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009